

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5722
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
/AMEMBASSY BERN 267
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR

UNCLAS ATHENS 3719

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU, GR
SUBJECT: REACTION TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON EMBARGO ISSUE

REF: (A) ATHENS 3681 (B) STATE 114081
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1. CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS RELATED
TO THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY CONTINUED
TO BE FEATURED IN THE GREEK MEDIA MAY 5. EMPHASIS IN MUCH
OF THE REPORTING WAS GIVEN TO PREDICTIONS THAT THE
LEGISLATION REMOVING THE EMBARGO WOULD EVENTUALLY BE
DEFEATED IN THE CONGRESS. THE HIRC'S VOTE IN FAVOR OF

SUSPENDING THE EMBARGO WAS FREQUENTLY DESCRIBED AS
A COMBINED VICTORY-DEFEAT FOR THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION.

2. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION WAS ALSO GIVEN TO REPORTS
FROM TURKEY THAT TURKISH OFFICIALS WERE NOT AT ALL
HAPPY AT THE CLOSENESS OF THE VOTE AND THAT THE GOT
WAS GREATLY CONCERNED THAT THE LEGISLATION WOULD NOT BE
PASSED BY THE FULL HOUSE AND SENATE. EXCERPTS FROM THE NEW YORK
TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST STORIES ON THE CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION
OF THE EMBARGO WERE REPRINTED IN VARIOUS GREEK NEWSPAPERS,
AS WERE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SENATOR BRADEMOS AND
CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHAL (REFTEL B). SOME ACCOUNTS CLAIMED
THAT FORMER PRESIDENT FORD AND FORMER SECRETARY
KISSINGER HAD PLAYED INFLUENTIAL ROLES IN INFLUENCING
CONGRESSMEN TO VOTE FOR REMOVAL OF THE EMBARGO.

3. COMMUNIST RIZOSPASTIS PREDICTED THAT FINAL ACTION
ON THE EMBARGO WOULD COME IN MAY, AND IN AN EDITORIAL
CHARGED THAT GREECE IS "HOOKED FISH" SO THAT NO OTHER
NATION PAID ATTENTION TO ITS VIEWS. IN ITS EDITORIAL,
PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS CONCLUDED THAT THE EMBARGO
WOULD EVENTUALLY BE PASSED, BUT NEVERTHELESS URGED
THAT GREECE FIGHT IT TO THE LAST. FOR RIGHT ELEFTHEROS
COSMOS TOOK THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT TO TASK FOR ITS
FAILURE TO VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE THE EMBARGO'S
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REMOVAL. LEFTIST ELEFTHEROTYPIA REPORTED FROM
NEW YORK THAT ACCORDING TO CIRCLES CLOSE TO TURKISH-
CYPRIOT ADVISOR SOYSAL, IF THE EMBARGO IS NOT REMOVED
TURKEY WILL ANNEX THE NORTHERN PART OF CYPRUS.
MCCLOSKEY

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